

Union-Smashing and Strike-Breaking Activities of Detective Agencies

And Labor Spies Exposed by Green

Notorious Company Unions, and Continued Resistance to the Workers' Right to Organize Guaranteed By Wagner-Connelly Labor Disputes Act.

By A. F. de Luna Serrano

Washington, D. C.—Voluntarism first, then the National Labor Relations Act, and finally the Wagner-Connelly Labor Disputes Act, have been the mainstays of the American labor movement in its attempts to break strikes and smash the trade union movement was presented before the Senate National Committee on Education and Labor, of which Senator Charles McNary, of the United States, is the majority leader of the United States Senate.

more subtle substitute for the open shop for the purpose of offsetting the progress made in collective bargaining under the Wagner-Connelly Labor Board. Many large corporations organized company union plans in the factories during the post-war decade under the leadership of the United States.

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"In the hope that the work of your committee will result in effective legis-

lation, designed to put an end to some of the developments. It will present to you the results of our investigation, possession showing the scope and the significance of these activities.

Origin of Anti-Union Drive

The genesis of the current anti-union drive is the result of the post-war open shop drive of 1920-1921 and has been carried on under the leadership of the National Association of Manufacturers.

workers' rights has been effectively prevented by them. Though outlawed by the National Labor Relations Act, the violation of employers continues because of the organized attempts on the part of certain employers to circumvent the law. The recent campaign promoted by the American Liberty League is a case in point. The appeal to lawlessness on a Nation-wide basis.

Local Anti-Union Employer Groups

Having given a graphic description of the open shop campaign throughout the past decade, Mr. Green pointed out that the utter economic chaos in which that decade ended "finally convinced the workers of the truth of the proposition of the fact that despotic oppression of the workers' rights could not lead to the economic progress of the country."

Some employers, according to Mr. Green, were guided by the realization of the fact that the interests of the unions and some by a fear of competition.

"This will of the employers and workers for a lasting cooperative effort was embodied in Section 7-A of the National Labor Relations Act. For a few months in which the first

Our Weak Starts War on Unions

"But only too soon this keynote of industrial stability was wrenched out of line by a few wild men who could not resist the temptation to start a fight with labor representatives and acted as though their workers might become co-operators in building a new basis for stability."

Mr. Green asked: "How can the work of these men be stopped? There is no force in the face of this mercenary army of undercover agents operating in the shadows of the law. It is legislation to root out this evil from our economic structure."

Labor Spy Activities Cited

Typical of these men was Ernest T. Weir, president of the Weirton Steel Corp., a major steel producer in West Virginia. Weir was a strong supporter for all those industrialists who accepted the principles of the recovery program of the 1930s, crying for help, and who had not betrayed the trust and betrayed their workers."

Mr. Green said that when the strike was in progress in 1936, he planned to bring an election to the workers. "I was not to be a strike-breaker," he said.

Specifically attacking the widespread charge that the American Federation of Labor was a strike-breaking agency throughout the country, Mr. Green pointed out that during the past 50 years the American Federation of Labor has been "in the forefront in protest against the activities of such agencies."

As an example of labor solidarity, he pointed out that the miners who had penetrated into the ranks of unions and work themselves up to responsible positions in the past 50 years had been "in the forefront in protest against the activities of such agencies."

"He broke the strike," Mr. Green declared. "And having broken it, he used intimidation, espionage and armed force, he continued to repress the self-interest of the employee with an iron hand."

Machine Guns Are Unharmless

"In May, 1934, when a steel strike was threatened, the Weirton plant and the entire community of Weirton, W. Va., were besieged by machine guns. Machine guns were mounted and floodlights were turned upon the mill gates. A special police force was organized and headed by the Smith & Wesson Company of Massachusetts and the Federal Labor-

er gathered a public trial was held and he was expelled from labor ranks and public life.

President Green introduced numerous exhibits illustrating the inhuman methods of labor spy activities. He introduced evidence to show that the International Association of Machinists, a medium-sized detective agency did labor spying and strike breaking in

The results of a thorough investigation of the entire problem, according to Proctor, must show that all activities of these detective agencies were productive of violence which was definitely fostered by the agencies themselves.

Armed Guards in Terre Haute Strife
Mr. Green observed the recent scene

termination to such the threatened steel strike by gunfire. Published accounts of the strike indicate that the company supplied with ammunition, including tear gas bombs, gas bullets and machine guns in the North American Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh Steel Company, Jones & Laughlin, Illinois Steel Company, Republic Steel Corporation, and others, which are connected with the threatened strike in Terre Haute, Ind., which occurred last year. The participation of arms dealers into the plant of the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company from Chicago has been reported by the New York Times. Youngstown, a detective agency said to be controlled by the Railway Audit and Insurance Company.

Detailed information regarding the activities of the National Corporation

Company Issues Imped on Workers

President Green's testimony emphasized the fact that while strikebreaking by violence was resorted to in times of crisis, a more subtle way was to impede the workers' exercise of their rights of self-organization by imposing upon them the structure of company unions.

"The company union in the United States first became significant at the end of the World War," he testified.

"Since that time it was used as a, while strikes and union problems were carried on in a powerful manner, violence was incited by the operatives of detective agencies, whose purpose it was to crush up more trade.